

# Newsletter 13

Friday 10th December 2021

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## Christmas Is Coming

This week it has really begun to feel like Christmas at Monkfield Park. Across the school children are busily creating beautiful Christmas cards and decorations for their families and friends. Year 1



and Year 4 are filling the air with the melodious sound of Christmas carols and music as they prepare for their Christmas productions next week.

The Friends of Monkfield Park kindly decorated the Main Hall and Activity Hall with Christmas trees, bringing the spirit of Christmas to life for the children, for which we are extremely grateful. Mrs Tucker and the kitchen team have begun the mammoth task of preparing for the school Christmas lunch, and Year 5 are sorting and delivering the Christmas cards to their excited recipients.

Thank you in advance.

Mrs Howell

## The Great Fire of London



The children in Year 2 took part in some genuine 'hands on' learning as they stepped back in time to the London streets of 1666. The children created their own bakery and made their own bread as they learnt how the fire began in the bakery in Pudding Lane. All the activities throughout this day of exciting learning were carefully planned to help the children understand what life was like in London at this time and how the fire spread so very quickly between the buildings. The children described how it must have felt to have been part of those times,

and to have experienced the chilling events. Some reflected that they would have used boats to escape on the River Thames, whilst others described the feelings of devastation and utter chaos that the residents of London must have experienced at this terrible time.



### **Application for Reception Places for September 2022**

Applications for Reception school places for September 2022 can now be made to the Cambridgeshire County Council Admissions Team. You can apply online at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions) or the school office will provide you with a paper copy of the form. The closing date for the first round of applications is 15th January 2022.

We appreciate that selecting the right school for your child is not an easy decision to make. Please can I encourage prospective parents to join one of our 'parent tours' so that you can see the school at first hand and we can have the opportunity to tell you what makes Monkfield Park such a special place to learn. Following advice from the Local Authority we are avoiding large gatherings to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. However, we are still offering very small tours for two parents at a time and request that visitors wear face masks when in the school building. Please contact the school office to book on to a tour.

### **FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022**

13th December—Y1 visit to Shuttleworth Collection

15th December —Year 1 Nativity Play via Zoom at 6pm

16th December—C&LC Christmas Song Time at 10.00am on Zoom

16th December—Christmas lunch

16th December —Year 4 Carol Concert via Zoom at 6pm

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January—Children return to school

### **School Uniform**

We know how quickly children grow, so we are aware that many children will require new items of school uniform in preparation for the start of the Spring term. Your support in ensuring the children are smart and well turned out in the correct school uniform is much appreciated. The school uniform consists of:

A bottle green school sweatshirt or school cardigan - plain or with the school logo

A White polo shirt

Plain grey trousers or skirt. Leggings are not acceptable and skirt lengths should be at least knee length.

Outdoor shoes that are suitable for safe, active play. Black school shoes and not trainers should be worn.

Trainers should only be worn on the timetabled PE day.



### Christmas Post

Our traditional Christmas post stockings will be available outside the school library for children to post Christmas cards into. Pupil volunteers from Year 5 sort the post and make the daily deliveries to the classes.

To make sure cards get to their intended destination, please ensure that each envelope has the recipient's first name, last name and class clearly marked on the envelope,

The final day for posting will be Thursday 16th December.



### Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day



Everyone loves the annual Christmas lunch with all the traditional trimmings. Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 16th December so please do remember to book lunch for your child on that day. To add to the festivities, if children would like to wear a Christmas jumper on this day, instead of their school sweatshirt or cardigan, we are suggesting that they may make a voluntary donation of £1 which we will donate to our charity of the year which is Cancer Research.

### Christmas Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

During the Christmas holidays, the Christmas HAF Programme is offering eligible children and young people, in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals, a fully funded place of up to 16 hours at a participating holiday scheme and experiences of their choice.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Parents HAF webpage gives further information on how to book a place and includes a video of the Summer HAF programme. This is a valuable opportunity for your child to take part in enriching experiences, physical activity and receive a nutritious meal during the school holidays.

For further information please contact: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Or scan the QR code for more information on how to register.





### Have Your Say

If you are yet to complete the parent voice questionnaire there is still time.

I feel it is very important that you have the opportunity to share your views about the school with us and how you feel we can improve our provision. The questionnaire is quick to complete and consists of a number of multiple choice questions in addition to a section where you can share other ideas or comments. The questionnaire can be accessed via the link below:



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14aXQFDqYtGbmTKynKHbPZhidyx4Lr6UhNVwdE3yAdU/edit#responses>

The questionnaire will remain live until Sunday evening.

### Year 1 Visit to the Shuttleworth Collection

The children in Year 1 have been fascinated by their topic of 'wheels, wings and other things', studying the history of vehicles and how they work. Before designing and making their own fantastic moving vehicles Blue Class visited the Shuttleworth Collection aeronautical and automotive museum in Bedfordshire. It was a wonderful experience for the children to see some of the oldest flying machines in the world!

The guides gave the children a wonderful introduction to the exhibits which range from early 20th century aircraft, cars, buses and motorbikes to steam engines and farm machinery. The children were also delighted to be able to watch the very skilled engineers restoring and repairing these incredible treasures of the mechanical age. Unfortunately, the children were unable to have their much anticipated ride on an open top bus as the weather was very wet and cold. Green Class will be having their visit to this amazing collection on Monday.



# Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Jamie in Delphinus class: Jamie always goes above and beyond to help everyone. She has the ability to see when children and members of staff need assistance and she always steps in with kind, encouraging words and offers of help. Your help in School Council this week was very much appreciated.

Blossom in Indigo Class: Blossom, thank you for always showing kindness to others. If someone is feeling lonely and doesn't have anyone to play with them, Blossom goes out of her way to offer kind words and include them in her games on the playground.

Austin in Yellow Class: Austin has been impressing us all with his fantastic writing in both his phonics lessons and in class this week. It is so wonderful to see all the effort you have been putting into your work Austin. Well done.

## Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to recount their favourite fairy tale for you.

Ask your Year 1 child to sing you their favourite song from the Nativity, along with the actions.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you which tools and materials they used to construct their models of Tudor houses.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how Christians celebrate Christmas around the world.

Ask your Year 4 child to give you an example of an Emotion, Comma Alan Peat sentence.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain the difference between a square and cube number.

Ask your Year 6 child to recount the events of the Christmas truce of 1914.

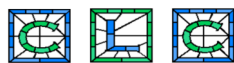
### Head Lice



Unfortunately, some irritating things have not gone away despite the pandemic and we have been informed of some recent cases of head lice in school. We would appreciate your co-operation in managing this by checking your child's hair and treating where necessary. To keep head lice at bay, there is no need to buy expensive treatments, as it is more effective to check hair carefully and regularly, using a lice comb to remove any live lice and eggs. Please don't forget that the whole family needs to be checked and that bedding should be thoroughly washed.

More information and support can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>





For general queries regarding the Care and Learning Centre, please contact the school office by e-mail on: [clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clcoffice@monkfieldpark.cambs.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01954 273377.

To speak with a member of the Care and Learning Centre staff please telephone 01954 273301

### Rabbit and Hedgehog Room News

This week we have been listening to the story of The Nativity. The children have been mesmerised by the story and have amazed the staff with all the details they have remembered. We have learnt the names of the characters in the story and some new vocabulary such as 'stable', 'manger' and 'shepherd'. To support their learning, the children have also been playing with our lovely new wooden Nativity set to retell the story independently or with their friends.

### Christmas Events

Just a reminder that next Thursday 16th December at 10am is our virtual Christmas Song Time via Zoom. This event is for both Rabbit and Hedgehog children. We hope that you can join us online to hear the children's wonderful singing, as we have been practising very hard! If your child does not attend on a Thursday morning, please feel free to join the Zoom call with your child at home so that they can sing along! For those of you who are unable to join us live, we are planning to upload a video of the Song Time to the school website which will be password protected. More details and Zoom link to follow...



It would be great if the children could come to Pre-School in a festive jumper or other item of festive clothing on that day.

Thursday 16th December is also School Christmas Dinner Day. If your child is at Pre-School for lunch on that day, you may book them a Christmas Dinner through the usual online booking system.

